

Message Text

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SUBJ CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MACEACHEN

REFS OTTAWA'S 3138, 3140, 3202, 3205

1 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER YESTERDAY WAS INTENDED AS COURTESY CALL, BUT WE DID GET INTO SUBJECT OF RECENT DECLARATIONS BY IVAN HEAD, PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSISTANT, ONE BY THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF AND THIRD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. THESE STATEMENTS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION BECAUSE ACCORDING TO PRESS HEAD EMPHASIZED THAT IN FUTURE CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD MOVE TO THE LEFT AND WOULD BE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO THAT POLICY FOLLOWED BY SWEDES DURING PAST FEW YEARS.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS PRIME MINISTER TOOK EXCEPTION TO PRESS REPORTS OF HEAD'S STATEMENT AND INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN CHANGES IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY ADDING THAT ONLY HE AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WERE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT WAS IN LINE WITH THAT MADE BY TRUDEAU AND DID NOT SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT CANADIANS MIGHT MOVE TOWARD LEFT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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3. I REMARKED TO EXTAFF MINISTER THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR INTEREST IN THESE STATEMENTS AND INQUIRED WHETHER HE COULD MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THEM. HE SAID THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TO ADD AND DECLARED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY SUDDEN CHANGES IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY. I SAID I HAD NOT NOTICED ANY IMMEDIATE REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES AMONG THOSE CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT I THOUGHT I DETECTED SOME INTEREST IN THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY WHICH WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF PRESS ALLEGATIONS AFTER THE HEAD STATEMENT THAT CANADA INTENDED QUOTE TO LURCH TO THE LEFT UNQUOTE. I COMMENTED THAT AS THE CANADIANS KNOW, INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CAPITAL IS BOTH SCARCE AND TIMID AT THE PRESENT TIME WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR ANY QUESTIONS RAISED BY POTENTIAL INVESTORS CONCERNING CANADIAN INTENTIONS. THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT CONSIDERED THAT ASPECT OF THE MATTER AND REPEATED THAT NO DRASTIC CHANGES ARE ENVISAGED IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY.
PORTER

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